(c) NCERT's syllabus based on National Curriculum Framework-2005 has been posted on NCERT's website www.ncert.nic.in. The syllabus is being circulated to all concerned including State Governments.

(d) Some of the main features of the new syllabus are:—

- Pervasive resonance of values enshrined in the Constitution of India in the organization of knowledge and subjects.
- Sensitivity to gender and social equality and the needs of children with special needs.
- Linkage between school knowledge and children's everyday experiences.
- Infusion of environment-related knowledge in different subjects, as also integration of peace and work-related attitudes and values in all subjects at all levels.
- Nurturing of scientific and social temper, aesthetic sensibility and values.
- Softening of boundaries between subject areas, thematic linkages, and centrality to activities and innovative teaching practices.

Uplinking and down-linking policy for TV channels

*179. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discussed report of the Group of Ministers set up earlier to formulate uplinking and down-linking policy for television channels;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(c) if so, whether these recommendations have already been submitted to his Ministry;

(d) if so, his Ministry's reaction thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) were considered and approved by the Cabinet in its meeting on 20.10.2005.

(b) to (e) Based on the Cabinet decision of 20.10.2005, the Government has issued policy guidelines for downlinking of television channels on 11.11.2005 and the consolidated uplinking guidelines have been notified on 2.12.2005. These guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (http://www.mib.nic.in).

Saraswati Heritage Project

†*180. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has cancelled its Saraswati Heritage Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that some voluntary organizations have discovered several geographical and archaeological facts;

(d) the mode of verifying the information gathered through these means as Saraswati Heritage Project has since been discontinued; and

(e) the details of Government's scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) No Sanction order in regard to Sarasvati Heritage Project was issued. Several studies including explorations and excavations have been carried out both by the governmental and non-governmental organizations along the palaeochannel,represented today by the Ghaggar river in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Some researchers have ascribed this palaeochannel to the Saraswati river mentioned in ancient Indian literature, but no scientific evidence to establish this correlation exists. Archaeological excavations continued independent of any such project during the field season 2004-05 at Bhirrana and Hansi (both in Haryana), Baror (in Rajasthan), Dholavira and Juni Kuran (both in Gujarat). The excavation at Bhirrana is continuing in 2005-06.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.